

Calendar No. 47

106TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
106-20

ROUTE 66 CORRIDOR

MARCH 17, 1999.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 292]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 292) to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 292, as ordered reported, is to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial and technical assistance.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

U.S. Highway 66, popularly known as “Route 66,” is significant as the nation’s first highway linking Chicago with Los Angeles. In its day, Route 66 symbolized freedom and mobility for every citizen who could afford to own and operate a car.

Beginning at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Route 66 wound 2,400 miles to Santa Monica, California. Route 66 linked the rural West to the densely populated urban Midwest and Northeast. Gas stations, motels, restaurants, and grocery stores were built along the route to service an increasingly mobile public. Route 66’s period of greatest historical significance was between 1933 and 1970.

Congress authorized a Special Resource Study (Public Law 101-400) for Route 66 in 1990. The study was completed in July 1995. The study found that Route 66 is nationally significant and that representative structures, features, and artifacts remain along the

historic route, although remnants of the road are quickly disappearing.

The study identified five alternatives. This legislation closely depicts alternative five. Partnerships between the Federal Government and local organizations will be established to preserve historic resources along Route 66. The National Park Service will provide technical assistance, participate in cost sharing programs, and administer a grant program.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 292 was introduced on January 21, 1999 by Senators Domenici and Bingaman and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation held a hearing on S. 292 on February 24, 1999.

During the 105th Congress a similar bill, S. 2133, was introduced by Senators Domenici and Bingaman on June 2, 1998. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation held a hearing on S. 2133 on September 17, 1998.

At its business meeting on September 24, 1998, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 2133, favorably reported, as amended. On October 15, 1998, passage failed in the House of Representatives.

On October 9, 1998, S. 2133 was passed by the Senate after agreeing to a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

At its business meeting on March 4, 1999, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 292, favorably reported, without amendment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on March 4, 1999, by a unanimous voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 292, as described herein.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 defines certain key terms in the Act.

Section 2 directs the Secretary, in collaboration with other entities, to facilitate the development of guidelines and a program of technical assistance and grants that will set priorities for the preservation of the Route 66 corridor. The Secretary will identify officials of the National Park Service to perform the functions of the Cultural Resource Programs.

This section directs the Secretary to support efforts by State, local, public and private persons, Indian Tribes, and State Historic Preservation Offices to preserve Route 66 by providing technical assistance, participating in cost sharing programs, making grants, and act as a clearinghouse for communication among Federal, State, and local agencies, and private persons interested in preservation of Route 66. The Secretary will assist the States in establishing a non-federal entity to perform the functions of the Cultural Resource Program after Federal involvement is terminated.

This section also provides that the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements, accept donations, provide cost-share grants, provide technical assistance in historic preservation, and conduct research.

In addition, this section states that the Secretary shall provide assistance in the preservation of Route 66 in a manner that is compatible with the idiosyncratic nature of the corridor. This section directs the Secretary to cooperate with the States, local and private persons and entities, and Indian Tribes in developing local preservation plans to protect the resources of the Route 66 corridor.

Section 3 requires that the Secretary develop a technical assistance program for the preservation of Route 66. Guidelines will be established to set priority preservation needs that may be based on national register standards, modified to meet the needs of Route 66 preservation. Under this section, the Secretary will coordinate a program of research, curation, and the collection of oral and video histories of Route 66, and administer cost-share grants for resources that meet the guidelines established under this act.

Section 4 authorizes a total appropriation of \$10 million for the years 2000 through 2009 to carry out this Act.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 11, 1999.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 292, a bill to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

S. 292—A bill to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the National Park Service (NPS) would spend \$5 million over the next five years to implement S. 292. The government would spend another \$5 million over the following five years. Because S. 292 would allow the NPS to accept donations, the bill could affect federal revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. We estimate, however, that any amounts collected would be insignificant. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Re-

form Act. State, local, and tribal governments might incur some costs as a result of the bill's enactment, but these costs would be voluntary.

S. 292 would direct the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the NPS) to create a program for preserving the Route 66 corridor. For that purpose, the NPS would be authorized to accept donations, conduct research, make grants, execute cost-sharing agreements, and provide technical assistance to nonfederal parties. The bill would authorize the appropriation of a total of \$10 million over the 2000–2009 period for these purposes.

Based on information provided by the NPS and assuming appropriations of the \$10 million authorized, CBO estimates that the agency would spend about \$5 million between 2000 and 2004. We estimate that about \$3 million would be used to establish guidelines and programs required by the bill in 2000 and 2001. The NPS would need about \$1 million annually thereafter to carry out the new programs.

The bill would authorize the NPS to accept donations from nonfederal sources. The amounts of donations collected are not likely to be significant.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 292. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards of significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from enactment of S. 292, as ordered reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A representative from the National Park Service testified in support of S. 292 at a hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation on February 24, 1999.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW.

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by S. 292, as ordered reported.